WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of FTAs

709. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent to Free Trade Agreements with various countries have benefited the farmers of other countries;

(b) whether there is a proposal to review the benefits of such agreements;

(c) if so, whether all such agreements would be reviewed, freshly assessed and audited to find to their benefits; and

(d) the steps proposed to review all those agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Free TradeAgreements provide tariff concessions on items not included in the negative/sensitive lists. Accordingly farmers of other countries are likely to benefit from the preferential market access made available on agriculture items, which India has agreed to provide tariff concessions under the FTAs. However, many agricultural items have been retained in India's Negative List with its FTA partners. Free TradeAgreements are signed for mutual benefits. There is no proposal to review all these agreements.

NSC Caution regarding foreign investment

†710. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Security Council has advised Government to exercise care in granting approvals to foreign capital investments for certain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Council has identified the countries from which capital investments should be obtained carefully; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.